



Bluffton Police Department

November 14, 2013

For More Information:

Sgt. D. Scott Chandler
Bluffton Police Department
101 Progressive Street
Bluffton, South Carolina 29910
(Phone) 843.706.4550
(Email): dchandler@townofbluffton.com

Bluffton Police Department Initiates CARE (Citizen Assistance Response Efforts) Program
Volunteers Will Regularly Call Residents Who Live Alone To Check on Well-Being
Sign Up: If You Want to Call (Volunteer) or Be Called

Bluffton Police Department is initiating a program for disabled, homebound, or elderly residents to receive calls from the Department to check on their health and well-being.

"The best time to get to know those who may need services is when they don't need services," Chief Joey Reynolds said. "This program allows the department's volunteers and officers to build a relationship with people who may just need a friendly call to make sure all is well.

"A call may not be much, however, it may mean the world to someone knowing they are connected to community support," Reynolds said.

Bluffton Police Department is currently signing up consumers of the program as well as volunteers.

If you or someone you know could benefit from a regular call, please call the Department at 706-4550 or stop by during business hours. Consumers may be a senior citizen, a disabled person, a homebound resident or someone who lives alone.

Volunteers will call consumers of the program up to several times a week. The call will probably last about five minutes and they will be made during business hours. This is a free service. Calls will be made during business days; weekends and holidays are excluded.

This service will continue until the consumer decides he or she does not need the service.

If Department volunteers are unable to make contact with the consumer after calling three days in a row, an officer will be sent to the home to check on the welfare of the individual. A volunteer can also request a follow-up visit from an officer if the volunteer perceives indicators in the conversation that merit an in-person welfare check.

"The goal of the program is to reduce a person's or a family's concern about a loved one living alone," Sgt. D. Scott Chandler, supervisor of the Neighborhood Services Unit, said. "We hope a weekly call can

help individuals live independently while decreasing possible feelings of loneliness and isolation. It is a simple way to connect homebound folks with community support.”

If you want to volunteer for this program, please call 706-4550 or email Sgt. Chandler for an application (dchandler@townofbluffton.com). Volunteers are asked to commit to a two-hour block each week and must pass a background check. Training will be provided.